

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-33 (canceled)

Claim 34. (new) A method for developing a therapeutic drug in a model animal system comprising the steps of:

- a) infecting a lower primate with a human viral pathogen comprising HCV or a human retrovirus;
- b) administering a potential therapeutic drug to said lower primate; and
- c) evaluating the effect of said therapeutic drug on disease manifestations caused by said human viral pathogen.

Claim 35. (new) The method of claim 34 wherein said lower primate comprises a member of the genus Tupaia.

Claim 36. (new) The method of claim 34 wherein said human retrovirus comprises HIV 1, HIV 2, HTLV-1 or HTLV-2.

Claim 37. (new) The method of claim 34 wherein said therapeutic drug comprises an antigen or set of antigens derived from said human viral pathogen.

Claim 38. (new) The method of claim 34 wherein cells, tissues or organs derived from said lower primate are infected in vitro.

Claim 39. (new) A method for developing a therapeutic procedure in a model animal system comprising the steps of:

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- a) infecting a lower primate with a human viral pathogen comprising HCV or a human retrovirus;
- b) carrying out a potential therapeutic procedure to said lower primate; and
- c) evaluating the effect of said therapeutic procedure on disease manifestations caused by said human viral pathogen.

Claim 40. (new) The method of claim 39 wherein said lower primate comprises a member of the genus Tupaia.

Claim 41. (new) The method of claim 39 wherein said human retrovirus comprises HIV 1, HIV 2, HTLV-1 or HTLV-2.

Claim 42. (new) The method of claim 39 wherein cells, tissues or organs derived from said lower primate are infected in vitro.

Claim 43. (new) The method of claim 39 wherein said therapeutic procedure comprises oral tolerization.

Claim 44. (new) A composition comprising a therapeutic drug that has been shown to be effective in alleviating clinical manifestations of a disease caused by a human viral pathogen comprising HCV or a human retrovirus by:

- a) infecting a lower primate with said human pathogen comprising HCV or a human retrovirus;
- b) administering said therapeutic drug to said lower primate; and
- c) evaluating the effect of said therapeutic drug on said clinical manifestations.

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Claim 45. (new) The composition of claim 44 wherein said clinical manifestations are secondary manifestations of said infection.

Claim 46. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein said lower primate comprises a member of the genus Tupaia.

Claim 47. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein said human retrovirus comprises HIV 1, HIV 2, HTLV-1 or HTLV-2.

Claim 48. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein cells, tissues or organs derived from said lower primate are infected in vitro.

Claim 49. (new) A method for developing a therapeutic procedure which alleviates clinical manifestations of a disease caused by a human pathogen comprising HCV or a human retrovirus, comprising the steps of:

- a) infecting a lower primate with a human viral pathogen comprising HCV or a human retrovirus;
- b) carrying out a potential therapeutic procedure to said lower primate; and
- c) evaluating the effect of said therapeutic procedure on clinical manifestations caused by said human pathogen.

Claim 50. (new) The method of claim 49 wherein said therapeutic procedure comprises oral tolerization.

Claim 51. (new) The method of claim 49 wherein said clinical manifestations are secondary disease manifestations of said infection.

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Claim 52. (new) A method for developing a therapeutic drug in a model animal system comprising the steps of:

- a) infecting a lower primate with a human pathogen;
- b) administering a potential therapeutic drug to said lower primate; and
- c) evaluating the effect of said therapeutic drug on secondary disease manifestations caused by said human pathogen.

Claim 53. (new) The method of claim 52 wherein said lower primate comprises a member of the genus Tupaia.

Claim 54. (new) The method of claim 52 wherein said human pathogen comprises a human retrovirus.

Claim 55. (new) The method of claim 54 wherein said human retrovirus comprises HIV 1, HIV 2, HTLV-1 or HTLV-2.

Claim 56. (new) The method of claim 52 wherein said human pathogen comprises HBV or HCV.

Claim 57. (new) The method of claim 52 wherein said therapeutic drug is an antigen or set of antigens derived from said human pathogen.

Claim 58. (new) A method for developing a therapeutic procedure in a model animal system comprising the steps of:

- a) infecting a lower primate with a human pathogen;
- b) carrying out a potential therapeutic procedure to said lower primate; and

c) evaluating the effect of said therapeutic procedure on secondary disease manifestations caused by said human pathogen.

Claim 59. (new) The method of claim 58 wherein said lower primate comprises a member of the genus Tupaia.

Claim 60. (new) The method of claim 58 wherein said human pathogen comprises a human retrovirus.

Claim 61. (new) The method of claim 58 wherein said human retrovirus comprises HIV 1, HIV 2, HTLV-1 or HTLV-2.

Claim 62. (new) The method of claim 58 wherein said human pathogen comprises HBV or HCV.

Claim 63. (new) The method of claim 58 wherein said therapeutic procedure comprises oral tolerization.

Claim 64. (new) A composition comprising a therapeutic drug that has been shown to be effective in alleviating secondary clinical manifestations of a disease caused by a human pathogen by:

- a) infecting a lower primate with said human pathogen;
- b) administering said therapeutic drug to said lower primate; and
- c) evaluating the effect of said therapeutic drug on said secondary clinical manifestations.

Claim 65. (new) The method of claim 64 wherein said lower primate comprises a member of the genus Tupaia.

Claim 66. (new) The composition of claim 64 wherein said human pathogen comprises a human retrovirus.

Claim 67. (new) The composition of claim 66 wherein said human retrovirus comprises HIV 1, HIV 2, HTLV-1 or HTLV-2.

Claim 68. (new) The composition of claim 64 wherein said human pathogen comprises HBV or HCV.

Claim 69. (new) A method for developing a therapeutic procedure which alleviates secondary clinical manifestations of a disease caused by a human pathogen comprising the steps of:

- a) infecting a lower primate with a human pathogen;
- b) carrying out a potential therapeutic procedure to said lower primate; and
- c) evaluating the effect of said therapeutic procedure on clinical manifestations caused by said human pathogen.

Claim 70. (new) The method of claim 69 wherein said lower primate comprises a member of the genus Tupaia.

Claim 71. (new) The method of claim 70 wherein said human pathogen comprises a human retrovirus.

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Claim 72. (new) The method of claim 71 wherein said human retrovirus comprises HIV 1, HIV 2, HTLV-1 or HTLV-2.

Claim 73. (new) The method of claim 69 wherein said human pathogen comprises HBV or HCV.

Claim 74. (new) The method of claim 69 wherein said therapeutic procedure comprises oral tolerization.